

# A “how to interview politicians” guide

Choose the parties you want to work with. This may depend on...

- How much time do you have.
- How relevant are some parties in YOUR region.
- are there any parties you have special interest in their opinion.

Contact the parties/politicians

- contact the party office in your region .
- may use personal contacts .
- when there are special politicians you want to interview at all costs (e.g. the mayor of your town) contact the assistant .

to give a personal clue

- call personally, lots of emails would be ignored .
- tell them first that you are from the University and you work for a student project. Often politicians accept a request only because it is from the University.
- Send them a PDF with a letter where you describe tight your project. It would be the best when this letter is in the corporate design of your University.
- Be prepared that they may not answer just in time. Have a plan B!

How to interview

- There have to be two people from your team. One interviews and the other one checks the correct procedure
- Be there 10 minutes earlier
- make sure that the recorder works
- Keep exactly with the questionnaire!
- Don't answer questions during the interview
- Talk loud and clear otherwise you won't understand your recordings
- The interview will take 15 minutes in average
- After the interview you can have a open conversation with them and answer the questions

Transcription

- Write the interview down word by word
- Mark every brake or other deviations from the normal stream of speech
- There are some literature which can help. In German for example: Forschungsmethoden und Evaluation für Human- und Sozialwissenschaftler, Bortz und Döring

Evaluation

- Evaluate the transcripts in a small group
- Print out the transcripts for every member of the group
- Mark every conspicuity
- Talk in the group about all conspicuities you found
- Find commonalities and differences
- Find a conclusion. This might be a bit hard.